

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 170041
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:SSOBER:BDF
APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY
NEA:ALATHERTONJR.
AF - MR. POST
S/S:PTARNOFF

-----007723 210102Z /61

O P 210038Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 170041

EXDIS, FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SO, US

SUBJECT: ARMS FOR SOMALIA

1. YOU SHOULD TELL FOREIGN MINISTER THAT I HAVE ASKED YOU TO INFORM HIM THAT, AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF ALL RELEVANT FACTORS, INCLUDING VIEWS OF HOST GOVERNMENT, THE PRESIDENT HAS DECIDED IN PRINCIPLE TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THE SOMALI REQUEST FOR SUPPLY OF ARMS BY THE U.S. WE INTEND TO PROVIDE ARMS WITH A VIEW TO DEFENSE OF PRESENT SOMALI BORDERS. WE DO NOT WISH TO CONTRIBUTE ARMS WHICH COULD BE USED BY SOMALI IRREGULARS IN THE OGADEN. DETAILS AS TO NATURE AND QUANTITY OF ARMS TO BE SUPPLIED REMAIN TO BE WORKED OUT AND WE ARE IN TOUCH WITH GOVERNMENT OF SOMALIA

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ON THIS QUESTION. WE WILL ALSO NEED TO CONSIDER HOW AND FROM WHAT SOURCE OR SOURCES THE ARMS IN QUESTION WILL BE FINANCED, AND WE MAY WISH IN DUE COURSE TO DISCUSS THIS FURTHER WITH HOST GOVERNMENT. WHILE THESE DETAILS REMAIN TO BE WORKED OUT, WE WISH HOST GOVERNMENT TO HAVE EARLY WORD OF THE PRESIDENT'S POSITIVE DECISION. YOU SHOULD ADD THAT THE DECISION WILL OF COURSE BECOME PUBLIC AT APPRO-

PRIATE TIME BUT IN THE MEANWHILE WE WOULD APPRECIATE HOST
GOVERNMENTS' TREATING OUR NOTIFICATION AS CONFIDENTIAL.

2. YOU SHOULD FURTHER SAY THAT WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THE
EFFORT TO BRING ABOUT A REALIGNMENT OF SOMALI'S FOREIGN
POLICY REQUIRES A COORDINATED POLICY APPROACH. WE WILL
KEEP HOST GOVERNMENT INFORMED OF OUR ARMS SUPPLY PLANS AS
THEY DEVELOP, AND WOULD LIKE TO BE INFORMED OF THEIR OWN
THINKING ON THIS SUBJECT. (FOR CAIRO: WE WOULD BE
INTERESTED IN SEEING LIST OF ITEMS GOE HAS SENT.)

3. AT YOUR DISCRETION, YOU MAY ALSO INFORM SADAT, FAHD
AND THE SHAH (RESPECTIVELY)--IN ADDITION TO, OR IN LIEU
OF, FOREIGN MINISTER--OF THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION.
VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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